

SUPPLEMENTAL TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS		Supplement Number	Date Issued
		94-7	9/27/94

National Mapping Division

SUBJECT

Treatment of Depth Curves on Primary Series Maps

BACKGROUND

Treatment of depth curves on primary series maps has been inconsistently documented in the past. This instruction consolidates and summarizes NMD practice for treatment of depth curves.

Prior to 1990, standard practice on NMD primary series maps was to show depth curves when bathymetric contours were not available. In a memorandum, dated December 6, 1990, the Assistant Division Chief for Research issued a new policy with respect to depth curves: existing depth curves and soundings are not updated or shown on revision mapping. The information is not deleted on standard or as-is reprints or at time of minor revision reprint. At that time, this policy was applied only to coastal maps for which bathymetric contours are available from the National Ocean Service. In January 1993, the decision was made to extend the policy of not showing depth curves to maps containing portions of the Great Lakes. Depth curves are not to be shown on inland lakes (interior lakes other than the Great Lakes) unless the cooperating agency requests them to be shown.

Submerged contours show the topography of land areas that have been flooded or are planned to be submerged. They are not depth curves. These contours are not deleted.

INSTRUCTIONS

Remove depth curves and soundings from all primary series maps at time of revision including maps showing the Great Lakes or inland lakes. Retain depth curves and soundings on maps that are as-is or standard reprints or minor revision reprints.

Retain existing depth curves and soundings on water bodies only at the specific request of a cooperating agency during revision mapping and then, only on quadrangles covering areas with no available bathymetric contours. Do not revise the depth curves and soundings.

Do not delete submerged contours.

APPLIES TO

All NMD primary series maps at scales of 1:20,000 through 1:63,360.

ISSUED TO

EDC, MAC, MCMC, RMMC, and WMC.

APPROVED BY

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NMD	ADC/C&R	ADC/IS	ADC/PB&A	ADC/RES	Canada (2)	Census	DMA	FS(2)
Mexico (2)	TVA	PO (2)	PTS	POP (2)				